WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A system for communicating information comprising:

a plurality of network devices each having at least one network communication port, each network device connected with at least one other network device through the at least one network communication port;

an advanced manager operably coupled to the communication port of at least one network device, the advanced manager operable to:

determine the functionality of the least one network device via the communication port; and

manage the at least one network device based upon the determined functionality.

2.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising:

the advanced manager operably coupled to the network communication port of a plurality of network devices;

the advanced manager having a device identification module operable to determine the functionality of each of the plurality of network devices through transmissions through the network communication port.

3.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the network communication port further comprises a 1718 type port.

4.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising the plurality of devices interconnected within a network operable to facilitate video conferencing.

5.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising:

the advanced manager having a management engine and a policy database;

the management engine operable to receive inter-device transmission data and inter-device negotiation data from at least one network device and compare the received data with the policy database; and

the management engine further operable to direct the at least one network device according to the policy database.

6.   The system of Claim 5 further comprising the database operable to be selectively updated.

7.   The system of Claim 5 further comprising the management engine operable to:

receive bandwidth negotiation data and a bandwidth negotiation recommendation from at least one network device;

compare the bandwidth negotiation data and bandwidth negotiation recommendation with the policy database; and

submit a revised bandwidth recommendation based on the policy database.

8.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising the advanced manager operable to determine a network device to be a Multipoint Control Unit device.

9.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising the
advanced manager operable to determine a network device
to be a Gatekeeper device.

5   10.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising the
advanced manager operable to determine a network device
to be a End Point device.

        11.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising the
10   advanced manager operable to:
        determine the software applications running on each
plurality of network devices;
        classify device function based upon the determined
software applications.

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        12.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising the
advanced manager operable to receive selected inter-
device communications.

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13. A system for managing network devices comprising:

an advanced manager operable to connect with the communication port of at least one network device, the

5   advanced manager operable to:

determine the functionality of the at least one network device via the communication port; and

manage the at least one network device based upon the determined functionality.

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14. The system of Claim 13 wherein the advanced manager further comprises:

a device identification module operable to determine the functionality of a connected network device;

15   a management engine operable to receive device identification and network management information;

a policy database containing a plurality of management policies decisions; and

the management engine operable to submit network

20   management instructions an associated network device.

15. The system of Claim 14 further comprising the management engine operable to:

receive bandwidth negotiation data and a bandwidth

25   negotiation recommendation from at least one network device;

compare the bandwidth negotiation data and bandwidth negotiation recommendation with the policy database; and

submit a revised bandwidth recommendation based on

30   the policy database.

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16.   The system of Claim 13 further comprising the advanced manager operable to determine the functionality of the least one network device via the 1718 type communication port.

17.   The system of Claim 13 further comprising the device identification engine operable to identify at least one software application running on the network device.

18. A method for managing network devices comprising:

providing an advanced manager;

identifying and associated network device by connecting with the network communication port of the associated network; and

managing the network device based on the identification of the network device.

19. The method of Claim 18 further comprising identifying the software running on the associated network device and identifying the associated network device based upon the identified software.

20. The method of Claim 18 further comprising:

receiving network management data;

consulting an associated policy data base; and

submitting management instructions based on the associated policy database.